

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 194693

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ABOARD CAPE ERIMO

REFS: (A) STATE 184515, (B) SINGAPORE 3677, (C) KUALA
LUMPUR 4467. -

AS INDICATED REF A, IT IS FIRM DEPARTMENTAL POLICY NOT TO
PROVIDE GUARANTEES OF PAROLE FOR REFUGEES ABOARD BOATS AS
A PRIOR CONDITION TO THE LANDING OF THESE REFUGEES. THIS
POLICY SHOULD BE MADE CLEAR TO THE LOCAL UNHCR OFFICE AND TO
GOS.

WE ASSUME THAT GOS HAS RECEIVED THE UNHCR APPEAL REQUESTING
COUNTRIES WHERE REFUGEES LAND IN SEARCH OF ASYLUM TO RE-
CEIVE SUCH REFUGEES, AT THE LEAST ON A TEMPORARY BASIS.

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THE UNHCR HAS AGREED TO UNDERTAKE THE EXPENSE OF CARE AND

MAINTENANCE AND THE TASK OF FINDING PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUCH REFUGEES. THE U.S. IS SUPPORTING THIS EFFORT BY THE UNHCR AND HOPES THAT MOST NATIONS IN THE AREA WILL DO SO AS WELL. IN THIS SITUATION, WE WILL EXAMINE AND PROMPTLY PROCESS FOR ENTRY INTO THE U.S. THOSE

BOAT CASE REFUGEES WHO ARE ELIGIBLE UNDER EPP CRITERIA AND WHICH WE FIND IT POSSIBLE TO TAKE WITHIN NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS OF OUR PROGRAM.

IT IS FOR GOS TO DETERMINE WHETHER THEY WILL RESPOND TO THIS HUMANITARIAN APPEAL BY UNHCR. OBVIOUSLY, WE HOPE THEY WILL FIND IT POSSIBLE TO JOIN IN THIS EFFORT. THE U.S., HOWEVER, DOES SUPPORT THE APPEAL. THUS, IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR EMBASSY TO SEEK OR URGE ALTERNATIVE MEASURES SUCH AS THE SUGGESTED LANDING OF THESE REFUGEES AT PORT KLANG.

FOR HONG KONG. PLEASE ASSURE THAT UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE SAMPATKUMAR IS INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS CASE.

FOR GENEVA. MISSION SHOULD ASSURE THAT UNHCR FULLY INFORMED OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS AND URGE THAT VIGOROUS ACTION BE TAKEN TO PERSUADE SINGAPORE TO PERMIT LANDING OF THESE REFUGEES UNDER UNHCR PROTECTION. IN LIGHT OF THE PROLIFERATING BOAT CASES, WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT FOR UNHCR TO INCREASE ITS REPRESENTATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. U.S. RESPONSE TO UNHCR APPEAL BEING SENT SEPTTEL. HABIB

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